

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20 continuing onto page 2, and ending on page 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Cyclic polyolefins, otherwise called cycloolefin copolymers or amorphous polyolefins, are thermoplastic polymeric materials that have recently attracted attention for their superior properties. These polymers have no polar groups depending on the structure, and are therefore low in moisture and water absorption properties. Accordingly, they are highly useful as protective film materials and overcoating materials by taking advantage of water and moisture proofness. Further, the polymers possess excellent optical properties such as high light transmission properties in the visible and ultraviolet regions, high transparency because the polymers do not crystallize and are amorphous in spite of being olefins due to the cyclic structure of the main chains, and remarkably low birefringence because of low polarization. Moreover, their optical properties change little and are stable against environmental changes such as in temperature, as compared with conventional transparent resins such as heat resistant and low-water absorption methacrylic resins having high environmental resistance. The cyclic polyolefins are therefore also called environmental polyolefins. Further, melts thereof have soft flow properties to provide excellent forming properties and dimensional stability of formed products, enabling precision transfer of intricate~~intricate~~ly formed products or molds. Furthermore, the polymers possess high dielectric constants, superior electrical insulating properties and high chemical resistance. These properties including transparency, optical properties, low moisture permeability, forming properties, chemical resistance and heat resistance have enabled various uses as optical members such as lenses and optical fibers, display materials, electronic materials, and recording medium materials such as optical media including CD, MO and DVD. --

Please delete at page 4, lines 15-18 in their entirety.

Please delete the section heading at page 4, line 20.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21 continuing onto page 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- As described in the above-discussed Patent Documents 1 to 4, various proposals have been made for modifying or changing properties of the cycloolefin copolymers (hereinafter sometimes abbreviated to COC) as base polymers. However, it is

often difficult to modify the cycloolefin copolymers chemically by addition reaction of functional groups, because of the known fact that the cycloolefin copolymers have steric hindrance attributed to the structural skeleton of cycloolefin chain parts of the main chain. For the polymers having such main chain skeletons, proposed is the addition of functional groups under particular conditions such that the cyclic structure will open to perform addition reaction at the main chains of the cycloolefins. However, it is readily understood that chemical addition modification is extremely difficult under normal conditions. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Specifically, this difficulty is evidenced by the fact that the addition level expressed by the acid value of the functional group carboxylic acid by use of the modifier compound maleic anhydride is not always satisfactory as described in Patent Documents 1 to 4. None of the proposals inclusive of these patent documents has been ~~unable~~able to achieve a satisfactory addition level in the addition modification for modifying or improving the properties. --

Please insert the following section heading at page 7, before line 5:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the section heading at page 13, line 14, with the following rewritten section heading:

-- ~~PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Hereinbelow, embodiments of the modified cycloolefin copolymers, simple industrial processes for production of the copolymers, and uses of the modified cycloolefin copolymer resins according to the present invention will be further described in detail. --

Please delete the section heading at page 43, line 3.